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## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR 1896.

The year 1896 has been one of uninterrupted prosperity. The Museum has continued to grow in usefulness, while its advance in the estimation of the community is shown by the creditable record of the gifts and bequests it has received during the twelve months just closed. These have exceeded the gifts of the previous year both in number and in value, and have contributed to the enlargement of all departments of the Museum.

The Trustees are justly gratified to see the Museum enriched by these acquisitions. Such benefactions are essential to its welfare, and their value and importance for its continued prosperity cannot be overestimated. The Trustees deem it their duty, however, to call attention to the fact that the obligations imposed by these gifts constitute a source of no small embarrassment to an institution depending to so large an extent upon private contributions for its maintenance.

Every gift received imposes a series of expenses. Appropriate stands must be erected, exhibition cases and pedestals must be constructed, and time and money devoted to labeling, cataloguing and various incidentals necessary to the proper exhibition of what has been received. These expenses have hitherto been met with the income from the invested funds of the Museum. It is not generally known, and cannot be too strongly emphasized, that the City contributes only about two-thirds of the amount necessary to meet our current expenses. The sum of forty-four thousand dollars, constituting the entire available income of the Corporation, has been required during the past year to supplement the amount received from the City for the maintenance of the Museum.

This condition of things is manifestly wrong. All the funds the Trustees have at their disposal are urgently needed to increase the collections of the Museum. Tenders of valuable and desirable works of art are constantly being declined for lack of funds, and often opportunities are lost which cannot be recovered. Under such circumstances the Trustees should not

be compelled to devote all of their slender income to expenses incident to the exhibition of their treasures to the public free of charge.

#### FINANCES OF THE MUSEUM.

The amount required for the maintenance of the Museum during the year 1896 is given above in the detailed statement of the Treasurer. The income for the present year will be somewhat smaller than that of 1896. This is due to the lower rate of interest on some of the Museum investments and to the decrease in the sale of catalogues. The budget for 1897 has, however, been reduced so that the Museum may be kept out of debt.

#### NUMBER OF VISITORS.

The total number of visitors to the Museum during the year was 503,316 ; a decrease from 1895 of 23,172. This decrease is due in large part to the prevailing inclemency of the weather during the month of March. For purposes of comparison a table is appended showing the total number of visitors during each month of the year and during the corresponding month in 1895:

	1895.	1896.
January .....	34,836	39,359
February .....	38,546	44,263
March.....	54,535	34,761
April .....	23,297	29,253
May.....	54,235	58,253
June .....	42,678	34,497
July.....	52,417	45,805
August .....	54,771	48,048
September .....	64,131	57,458
October .....	22,034	19,529
November.....	41,733	48,735
December.....	43,275	43,355
Total.....	526,488	503,316

Between March 30th, 1880, and December 31st, 1896, the total number of visitors to the Museum, as registered by the

turnstiles and daily recorded in a book especially kept for the purpose, was 7,868,827.

#### EDUCATIONAL WORK.

In pursuance of the agreement entered into five years ago with Columbia University, the usual courses of free lectures on art and archæology have been continued on Saturday mornings, at eleven o'clock, during the winter. Lectures were delivered throughout the months of January, February, and March, and were resumed in December. The popular interest in these lectures has continued undiminished, and the large attendance has taxed the capacity of the hall to its utmost. These free lectures at the Museum are evidently destined to become an important factor in the education of the community, as well as a potent agency in arousing public interest in the activities and benefits of the Museum.

As in years past public and private schools and colleges have continued to take advantage of the exceptional opportunities offered here for instruction and study. Classes in charge of their teachers have visited the Museum in larger numbers than ever before. Peripatetic lectures have been permitted, as heretofore, whenever possible, and every facility has been afforded for educational and special work. Frequently classes have come to the Museum on Monday or Friday, days which are reserved for members and copyists, and on which the general public is admitted only upon payment of the admission fee; nevertheless, these classes were in all cases admitted free of charge and every assistance was cheerfully rendered them.

#### NUMBER OF COPYISTS.

Two hundred and sixty-five copyists have been at work during the year in the several departments. Besides these copyists of whom record was kept, many art students, designers for decoration and manufacture, and entire classes in drawing received oral permission to sketch from objects on exhibition.

#### DEPARTMENT OF CASTS.

The most conspicuous additions to the exhibits of the Museum have been in the Department of Casts. As anticipated

in the last Annual Report, the North-west halls, devoted to objects of the Mediæval and Renaissance periods, were opened in May. The casts representing the Renaissance period constitute the John Taylor Johnston Collection. In the North-east halls, devoted to the Egyptian, Assyrian, Persian, and Archaic-Greek periods, 66 additional casts, forming part of the Marquand Collection, have been placed on exhibition.

Casts of the groups on the two pediments of the Temple of Zeus at Olympia arrived from Germany a few weeks ago. They were made in the "*Atelier de Moulage*" of the Berlin Museum, after restorations by Professor Treu of Dresden and under his supervision. These casts will be placed on exhibition during the present year.

Two years ago the Director was authorized by the Trustees to establish an "*atelier de moulage*," such as exists in the Louvre and in the Berlin Museum, for making moulds and casts, at such time as in his judgment should be suitable, and whenever room for workmen could be obtained. In accordance with this design a number of moulds have already been obtained, and so soon as the new East wing is erected the moulding establishment will be in full working order. Museums, colleges, and art schools of the country will then be furnished with casts of the best sculptures of all periods at far less cost and in better condition than they can be procured from Europe.

#### NEW ACQUISITIONS.

The collection of musical instruments presented by Mrs. John Crosby Brown has been further increased during the year by two hundred and seventy-eight specimens. The additions to this collection have been so numerous that for lack of room, although additional space has repeatedly been appropriated, about one hundred and twenty-five instruments have not yet been placed on exhibition.

A collection of arms and armor consisting of one hundred and sixty-six pieces has been presented to the Museum "in the name of the late John S. Ellis," by Mr. A. Van Horne Ellis and his mother, Mrs. John S. Ellis. This collection will be displayed at the next Spring Exhibition.

Another valuable acquisition is the colossal work in marble of Mr. George Grey Barnard, entitled "I feel two natures struggling within me," which has been presented to the Museum by Mrs. Alfred Corning Clark.

Especial mention should be made of twelve valuable paintings presented this year by Mr. George A. Hearn, among which are the following: "Portrait of a Lady," by John Hoppner, "Portrait of William Forsyth," by Sir Henry Raeburn, and "Portrait of the Duke of Cumberland," by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

A detailed list of acquisitions will be found at the end of this report.

#### CATALOGUES AND LABELS.

During the course of the year all the catalogues of paintings and sculptures have been revised and brought down to date. Besides these new editions of catalogues previously published, a catalogue of the Egyptian antiquities in Hall III was published in October. A complete catalogue of the plaster casts in the possession of the Museum will appear in the near future. Several other hand-books are in course of preparation.

The work of numbering and labeling all objects on exhibition has been steadily continued and many hundreds of objects have been labeled during the year.

While the plan of attaching labels to objects must be welcomed by all visitors to the Museum, since it furnishes them with requisite information at a glance, its result on the finances of the Museum must not be overlooked. Besides the actual expenses incurred, the marked decrease in the sale of catalogues attending such labeling appreciably diminishes the income of the Museum.

#### THE JACOB H. LAZARUS SCHOLARSHIP.

Upon the unanimous recommendation of a Committee of Artists selected by the Trustees, the Jacob H. Lazarus Traveling Scholarship has been awarded to Mr. George W. Breck of New York City.

This Traveling Scholarship was founded in 1892 by Mrs. Amelia B. Lazarus and daughter, the late Miss Emilie Lazarus, in the sum of \$24,000, and is tenable for a term of three years,

sixteen months of which must be spent in Rome, eight months anywhere in Italy, and the remaining twelve months in different parts of Europe. The incumbent receives \$1,000 a year, payable in quarterly installments.

#### LIBRARY.

The number of books in the Library on the 31st day of December, 1896, was as follows :

Bound Volumes.....	4889
Portfolios.....	146
Unbound Volumes, Reports, Catalogues and Pamphlets.....	247

There have been added to the Library during the year, by purchase, 221 volumes, and by presentation, 232 volumes, including gifts from Mr. Samuel P. Avery, Mrs. John Crosby Brown, General L. P. di Cesnola, Mr. W. E. Dodge, M. Alfred Le Ghait, Belgian Minister to the United States, Mr. Louis L. Lorillard, Mr. Henry G. Marquand, Mr. W. D. Nichols, Herr Adalbert Ritter von Lanna and Dr. Joseph Wiener.

Under the special appropriation of \$1,000 made by the Trustees, 864 books and pamphlets have been bound during the past year at a cost of about \$900. This includes the binding of thirty volumes of prints belonging to the Huntington Collection.

The system adopted by the librarian several years ago of issuing cards of admission to the library on certain days of the week has been continued, and art students and other visitors have availed themselves of the privilege to a greater extent than in any previous year.

Persons desiring to use the library can obtain a card of admission by applying to the director of the Museum or to the assistant librarian, as heretofore.

#### NEEDS OF THE MUSEUM.

The growth of art education in this city has been most extraordinary, and the Trustees, to keep abreast of the popular knowledge, are pressed to obtain the choicest examples in the several departments.

What the Museum really needs is a permanent "Endowment Fund," yielding an income of about \$50,000, for purchasing the best examples of ancient and modern art. This it ought not to be difficult to obtain in a community so wealthy and generous as that of our great city.

#### THE NEW WING.

The plans and specifications for the erection of the new wing on the east side of the present building have been approved by the Trustees and forwarded to the Park Commissioners. It is to be hoped that the work will soon be advertised by the Park Department and that the successful bidder will begin to lay the foundations as soon as the frost is out of the ground.

#### ISAAC H. HALL.

In closing this report it is with feelings of heartfelt regret that the Trustees make mention of the death of Professor Isaac H. Hall, Ph.D., Litt.D., which occurred on the 2d of July. Dr. Hall was for nine years preceding his death Curator of the Department of Sculpture, and for many years prior to the establishment of that office had liberally contributed to the advancement of the Museum.

After graduating at Hamilton College he served there as assistant to Dr. Peters, the distinguished astronomer. Later he became a teacher in the American College at Beirut, Syria, which led him to direct his attention to Arabic and the other Semitic languages. On returning to this country he took up the study of Cypriote antiquities and published much on the subject. In the Syriac language and literature he became the acknowledged leader of American scholars, and was the valued correspondent of the leading Syriac scholars of Europe. In recognition of his attainments he was invited to attend the Dublin University Centennial, and was honored with the degree of Doctor of Letters. He was chosen President of the American Philological Society, and Vice-President of the American Oriental Society.

His profound and thorough scholarship, his indefatigable industry, and his devotion to the welfare of the Museum ren-



dered his services to the institution invaluable. In his death the Trustees have lost an able and energetic co-worker, and American scholarship one of its foremost representatives.

New York, January 25, 1897.

By order,

HENRY G. MARQUAND,

*President.*

I . P. DI CESNOLA,

*Secretary.*